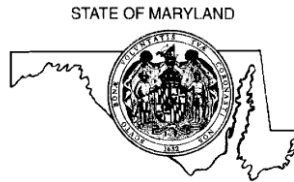


**Marilyn Moon, Ph.D.**  
CHAIR



**Rex W. Cowdry, M.D.**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION**  
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**MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, February 19, 2008**

**Minutes**

The public meeting via teleconference began at 8:35 a.m.

Present by teleconference: Chair Moon, Commissioners Conway, Falcone, Jefferson, McLean, Olsen, Ontaneda-Bernales, Petty, and Pollak

Rex Cowdry, M.D., Executive Director, said Chair Moon and Insurance Commissioner Tyler submitted a letter to Chairmen Middleton and Hammen suggesting that an assessment be conducted on all proposed mandates services, which include the clinical, social, and financial implementations.

Dr. Cowdry and Nicole Stallings discussed the following legislation:

HB 558 – Home Health – Certificate of Need - HB 558 repeals the requirement that home health agencies hold a certificate of need. Staff recommended amending the bill requiring the Commission to conduct a study evaluating the appropriateness of a CON for home health agencies. After discussion, the Commission agreed to support the bill with an amendment.

HB 462 – Health Insurance – Small Group Market – Self-Employed Individuals – Sunset Extension – HB 462 would extend the termination date on a provision of law that excludes self-employed individuals and sole proprietors from the small group insurance market. The Commission agreed to support the bill to protect the small group market against adverse risk selection.

HB 737 – Health Care Coverage – Personal Responsibility – HB 737 would establish a personal responsibility provision on certain higher-income individuals. This bill provides for the imposition of a state tax surcharge of \$1,000 for certain individuals who have an adjusted gross income over \$50,000 or \$2,000 for a married couple with an adjusted gross income over \$100,000. The bill also provides several exemptions to the requirement and allocates any revenue collected from the tax surcharges towards premium subsidies or a Medicaid expansion. After discussion, the Commission agreed with staff to support HB 737.

HB 813 – State Personnel – Employment – Categories and Special Appointment – HB 813 would limit the types of positions that may be classified as special appointments in the State Personnel

Management system and repeal provisions of law that designate specified positions and employees as being in the executive service or management service or as special appointments. This bill would remove the Commission's authority to hire all non-management employees into special appointments, and would limit the hiring and salary setting. Staff recommended opposing HB 813 and the Commission agreed.

Dr. Cowdry said he will be testifying in Annapolis on Thursday, February 21, therefore, would not be attending the public meeting scheduled on that date. He noted that Pam Barclay would be at the front table with the Chair.

There being no further business, the teleconference call was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.